

Message Text

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EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1&2
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, IS, LE
SUBJ: REPORT OF ILMAC MEETING JULY 30

BEGIN TEXT

1. SCHEDULED ILMAC MEETING, INITIATED BY LEBANESE TO DISCUSS
MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE ARMY TO SOUTH LEBANON, HELD IN NAQOURA
30 JUL 78 AT 0700Z TO 0815Z. LEBANESE DELEGATION CONSISTED
OF COL YOUNES, LT COL TANNIR AND CAPT WEHBE. ISRAELI DELEGATION
WAS COL SHLOMO AND LT COL GAL. ALTHOUGH LT COL ESPINASSY, CM,
ILMAC AND LT COL BOUTON, COO, UNTSO, WERE IN ATTENDANCE INITIALLY,
ISRAELIS REQUESTED THEM TO LEAVE, AS MEETING WAS NOT ILMAC
MEETING BUT ONE BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO COUNTRIES.
LEBANESE DELEGATION DID NOT OBJECT AND TWO UNTSO OFFICERS DEPARTED.
THUS, SUBSTANCE OF MEETING PRESENTED BELOW IS RESULT OF INFOR-
MATION PROVIDED BY LEBANESE DELEGATION.

2. LEBANESE INFORMED ISRAELIS THAT LEBANESE ARMY DECIDED TO
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PAGE 02 JERUSA 02064 301912Z

RETURN SOUTH THROUGH MARJAYOUN TO TIBNIN AND TO SETTLE AROUND
TIBNIN IN COORDINATION WITH UNIFIL. MISSION OF LEBANESE FORCE
IS TO PARTICIPATE WITH UNIFIL IN RESTORING ORDER AND PEACE
IN THE SOUTH AND TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH THE POPULATION
AND THE LEBANESE ARMY PERSONNEL WHO ARE IN THE SOUTH WITH VIEW
TO CREATING CLIMATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY.

3. ISRAELIS REQUESTED DETAILS ON STRENGTH, COMPOSITION, ROUTE, ETC. OF FORCE MOVING INTO SOUTH. LEBANESE PROVIDED INFORMATION, WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH REF CABLE.

4. ISRAELIS STRESSED THAT, ACCORDING TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON, TO INCLUDE LOCAL PUBLIC OPINION, PLANNED ROUTE PRESENTS TWO PROBLEMS: AAA. IT PASSES THROUGH ZONE BETWEEN KFAR MISHKE AND KAUKABA UNDER PALESTINIAN CONTROL; BBB. PASSES THROUGH MARJAYOUN AND AADEISSE WHICH ARE UNDER CHRISTIAN MILITIA CONTROL. IF LEBANESE USE ROUTE, THEY RISKED TROUBLE, PARTICULARLY FROM CHRISTIAN MILITIA. LEBANESE ASKED WHAT WOULD ISRAELI ATTITUDE BE IF TROUBLE OCCURRED. ISRAELIS GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD NOT INTERVENE IN ANY WAY AND VIEWED SUCH CONTINGENCY AS PURELY LEBANESE INTERNAL MATTER. ISRAELIS SAID THEIR RAISING POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WAS ONLY ADVISORY, NOT WARNING.

5. ISRAELIS FURTHER STRESSED THAT FUTURE ACTIVITY OF LEBANESE ARMY IN SOUTH PRESENTED TWO PROBLEMS: AAA. SUPPLY LINES CAN BE INTERDICTED BY PALESTINIANS; BBB. RISK OF CONFLICT BETWEEN NEW LEBANESE FORCE AND MILITARY FORCE AND MILITIAS OF ENCLAVES.

6. LEBANESE IN RESPONSE TO ISRAELI QUERY, INDICATED WHY ROUTE CHOSEN AND WHY FIRST MISSION OF ARMY CARRIED OUT WHERE APPARENTLY THERE ARE NO LONGER TROUBLES, INSTEAD OF INTERVENING IN OTHER PARTS OF LEBANON (E.G. BEIRUT) WHERE PROBLEMS EXIST. ON PRINCIPLE,
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PAGE 03 JERUSA 02064 301912Z

PRESENCE IN SOUTH IS MORE THAN NORMAL AFTER LONG ABSENCE AND LEBANON CANNOT REMAIN ABSENT AS OTHER NATIONS SEND TROOPS TO UNIFIL. THEY STATED THAT CHOICE OF ROUTE, DEPLOYMENT AND TIMING WAS ACCORDING TO BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS AND LEBANON ALONE WAS JUDGE OF THESE.

7. ISRAELIS GAVE ADVICE AND ASKED QUESTIONS (NOT SPECIFIED BY LEBANESE DELEGATION). THEY THEN STATED THEY WOULD REPORT TO AUTHORITIES AND EITHER PROVIDE AGREEMENT OR COME BACK TO NAQOURA IN AFTERNOON FOR ANOTHER MEETING IF THEY HAD RESERVATION ON MOVE. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 0815Z.

8. AT 1020Z, LT COL GAL SPOKE ON TELEPHONE FROM ROSH HANIKRA WITH COL YOUNES IN NAQOURA. ACCORDING TO COL YOUNES, LT COL GAL REITERATED THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD NOT INTERVENE IF TROUBLE OCCURRED BUT ADVISED THAT THE MOVE SOUTH ON 31 JUL 78 NOT OCCUR BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS MENTIONED BY THE ISRAELIS EARLIER AT MEETING.

9. THE IMPACT OF MEETING AND ISRAELI ADVICE ON LEBANESE PLANNING IS UNKNOWN. END TEXT
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